

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending. Claims 1, 5-7, 13, 17-19, 23, 24, and 28-30 have been amended to expedite prosecution. Claim 34 has been added. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims in this application or a continuing application. The Drawings have been amended to include FIG. 2. The Specification has been amended to refer to FIG. 2.

The Drawings were objected to. The Office Action states that the bayonet connector of claim 10 must be shown. Applicant respectfully submits that FIG. 1 illustrates bayonet fasteners 73 and 76. Specification, pg. 10, lines 12-16.

The Office action states that "the recitation of claim 12 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claims." Claim 12 recites that the pressure control device forms the end of the pipe line. As taught in the originally filed Specification, when the pressure control device forms the end of the pipeline, the pipeline part downstream 10 of the pressure control device is deleted. Specification, pg. 9, lines 20-22. New FIG. 2 illustrates these features.

The Office Action states that "[c]laims 1-9 11-21-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Eidsmore (5,303,734)." Applicants understand from the remainder of the Office Action that this rejection applies to claims 1-9, 11-21, and 23-33.

Eidsmore discloses a pressure regulator having a spring 120 that provides "a bias toward the closed position." Eidsmore, FIG. 1; 6:52. The regulator's closed position is understood to prevent passage of fluid from its inlet to its outlet.

Independent claims 1, 13, 23, and 24 have been amended to recite that the gas-tight chamber comprises "a resilient element for generating a second portion of said predetermined force, the resilient element configured to urge the pressure sensor element toward the first position." The first position releases the fluid flow path allowing fluid to pass from the inflow opening to the outflow opening.

At least because spring 120 of Eidsmore biases the pressure regulator toward its closed position, rather than toward its open position, Eidsmore does not disclose the resilient element of the present independent claims.

The Examiner apparently objected to recitation of the term "bar-shaped element" in claims 6, 7, 18, 19, 29, and 30. These claims have been amended to recite a connecting element

rather than a bar-shaped element.

Claims 4, 16, and 27 were alternatively rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable of Eidsmore.

As discussed above, Eidsmore does not disclose the resilient element for generating a second portion of said predetermined force of independent claims 1, 13, and 24 from which claims 4, 16, and 27 respectively depend.

Claims 10 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Eidsmore in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,561,465 to Rogers ("Rogers").

Rogers is not understood to disclose or suggest a gas tight chamber comprising a resilient element configured to urge a pressure sensor element toward a first, open position. Thus, Rogers does not remedy the deficiencies of Eidsmore discussed above.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the rejections in the Office Action have been overcome. Insofar as the foregoing comments with respect to the independent claims are equally applicable to the dependent claims, the rejections of the dependent claims are also believed to have been overcome for this reason as well. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art cited in this case taken individually or in combination neither discloses nor suggests the present invention. Thus, the claims as presented and amended herein are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner wishes to discuss this case, then Applicant respectfully requests a personal or telephonic interview to discuss any remaining issues and expedite the allowance of the application.

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Enclosed is a \$86.00 check for excess claim fees and a \$950 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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